

DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • FALL 2013

A full-page photograph of a soldier in camouflage uniform running towards the camera on a dirt field. He is wearing a large backpack and a cap. In the background, there are trees, a wooden structure, and some vehicles.

BEST WARRIOR

Soldiers compete to be named
Soldier & NCO of the Year

» TRAINING & SUPPORT

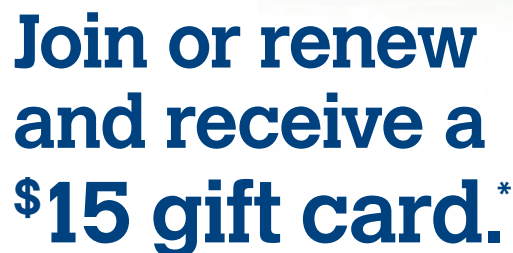
- Watertown Readiness Center dedicated
- NGB Chief visits Golden Coyote

» OVERSEAS DUTY

- 152nd CSSB deploys to Afghanistan
- 114th FW & 1978th CCT return from duty

» SERVICE MEMBER & FAMILY SUPPORT

- What is a LOD?
- Service member and family readiness support explained



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Submissions: Print and photo submissions of general interest to members of the SDNG, their families, civilian employees, veterans and retirees are invited and encouraged. Please send article and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to: ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil, 605.737.6721. Submissions are subject to editing. Electronic submissions are preferred and digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

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Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



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On the Cover

Spc. Dilyn Thompson, Battery B, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion of Yankton, runs the last stretch to the finish line during a road march event on Sept. 21 at the fairgrounds in Deadwood during the South Dakota Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck)



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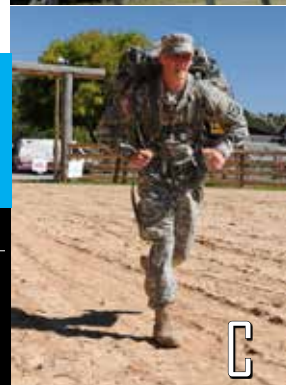
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MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



I want to start out by congratulating Brigadier General Craig Johnson on his retirement after more than 36 years of military service. He served admirably in numerous positions of increasing responsibility over the years, culminating in his appointment as the Assistant Adjutant General - Army. General Johnson and his wife, Marcia, have dedicated a huge portion of their lives in exemplary service to their state and nation and they will be sorely missed.

I am very pleased to have Brigadier General Kevin Griese taking over as the Assistant Adjutant General - Army. He has served with distinction in numerous key command positions over the years and has raised the bar of excellence every where he's been assigned. The S.D. Army National Guard is in great hands with General Griese at the helm.

It is great to have the members of the 114th Fighter Wing and the 1978th Contingency Contracting Team back on U.S. soil following their deployments. Both of these units performed their missions in a truly outstanding manner and we are very thankful for their safe return.

It was a huge honor to have the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Frank Grass, visit our Golden Coyote Exercise in June. His two-day visit allowed him to see first-hand how our exercise has provided quality training to thousands of troops from dozens of states and numerous allied nations year after year. General Grass was truly impressed with how our exercise was able to facilitate excellent training for units while simultaneously providing valuable services to our Native American community partners as well as the U.S. Forest Service.

September 7th marked a historic occasion for the South Dakota National Guard as we cut the ribbon on the beautiful new Watertown Readiness Center. Lieutenant Governor Matt Michels and U.S. Representative Kristi Noem were on hand along with 300 community members to witness the event.

The modern facility will include units that were previously stationed in Miller, Redfield, Sisseton and Webster. It is sad to leave those communities because they have supported the Guard in a truly outstanding fashion for generations. We intend to continue to partner with all four of the communities in a special way for many years to come.

As I type these words, the federal government is bracing for a shutdown because a funding bill has not been passed. This is extremely unfortunate as it will result in yet another furlough of our 549 military technicians who were victims of earlier furloughs as a result of sequestration. Our military technicians provide a wide range of extremely valuable services to our organization and we are quickly crippled when they are kept away from the workplace. Our readiness to respond to state and federal emergencies quickly erodes when these dedicated individuals are not allowed to report to work.

Even after the government passes the FY 2014 appropriations bill, we will not be out of the woods. The Budget Control Act will continue to reduce the amount of federal funding for all branches of the federal government for years to come. The cuts facing the Department of Defense are substantial and it appears fairly likely that the Army National Guard could face a reduction in its force structure in FY 2015. Our best strategy to defend ourselves against force structure losses is continued emphasis toward our readiness scorecard - the Unit Status Report. It is incumbent on us all to work hard on recruiting and retention. Any of our units that fail to maintain 100 percent of authorized strength are risking elimination during this period of declining budgets. The South Dakota National Guard has always punched above its weight in our ability to attract recruits and retain them in our great organization. Our state and nation rely upon us being there during time of emergency and we will not let them down.

Sincerely,

The Adjutant General

1742ND TO DEPLOY TO AFGHANISTAN

SIOUX FALLS – The South Dakota Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company has received their official mobilization order for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 1742nd and about 165 assigned members are scheduled for deployment in December. The unit's headquarters is located in Sioux Falls and its Detachment 1 in Flandreau.

The mission of the 1742nd is to provide transportation of both dry and refrigerated containerized cargo, general non-containerized cargo and bulk water and fuel products. The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the third mobilization for the 1742nd, which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2004 and in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm in 1990-1991.



OMMEN NAMED NEW 196TH MEB COMMANDER

SIOUX FALLS – Col. Terry Ommen, of Rapid City, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from Col. Kevin Griese during a change of command ceremony July 13 at the Sioux Falls National Guard armory. Ommen will now oversee the unit that Griese led since September 2011.

As the commander of the 196th, Ommen is responsible for the command and control of approximately 1,900 Soldiers, which is comprised of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, 153rd Engineer Battalion, 1-147th

Field Artillery Battalion and their subordinate units. Taking over the command, Ommen will continue to ensure that these units are equipped, manned, trained and prepared to carry out their state and federal missions.

Ommen works full-time as the director of human resource at Joint Force Headquarters. Col. Griese was promoted to brigadier general and appointed as the assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG.

MORE THAN HALF OF SD GUARD'S FULL-TIME FORCE ENDURES FURLONGHS

About 550 full-time employees of the South Dakota National Guard were furloughed Aug. 2 as a result of the government sequester. The number represents about 56 percent of the South Dakota Guards 958 full-time employees, and they were among 48,300 Guard employees nationally who were affected by the furloughs, which were designed to help chip away at the federal budget deficit.

Known as dual-status military technicians, these Guard members are full-time federal employees and members of the units they serve. Their jobs are to organize, administer and train Soldiers and Airmen and to maintain critical equipment across the state so units are ready for prompt mobilization in times of war or state emergencies.

The furlough amounted to a 20 percent cut in pay for much of the full-time force. As a result of the 2011 deal that reduced the federal budget by about \$1.1 trillion over the next 10 years, the furlough required these employees to take six unpaid days, or 48 hours, during the month of August.

Of the SDNG's full-time force, about 370 Soldiers and Airmen were not impacted by the furloughs. When the cuts were announced, President Barack Obama said that the uniformed services wouldn't be cut – which these Guard members are protected under. They were hired under a separate program called Active Guard Reserve (AGR), which is not covered by the sequester. Also not affected by the furlough were traditional Guard service members, who drill one weekend a month and two weeks a year.

But the dual-status military technicians, who are hired under federal guidelines, fall into a gray area. In May, it was announced that

the Guard members would be furloughed. While both dual-status military technicians and AGR members perform the same or similar duties, their pay and benefits are different. Technicians were the only uniform-wearing military members affected by the furlough.



MICHELS TAKES COMMAND OF 109TH RSG

RAPID CITY – Col. Marshall Michels, of Rapid City, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 109th Regional Support Group during a change-of-command ceremony Sept. 8 at Duke Corning Armory on Camp Rapid.

Michels assumed responsibility from Col. Bill Freidel, of Rapid City, who served in the position since June 2011.

The 109th Regional Support Group is one of four major commands for the South Dakota Army National Guard. As the commander of the 109th, Michels is now responsible for the command and control of about 20 units totaling about 900 Soldiers in eight communities throughout South Dakota. The 109th assists assigned units in meeting training, administrative and logistical requirements to maintain the unit's readiness in support of their state and federal missions.

Michels also works full-time for the SDARNG as the deputy chief of staff for personnel at Camp Rapid. Col. Freidel transferred to the Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid where he will continue to serve as the SDARNG vice chief of staff.

196TH REGIMENT, BATTALIONS CHANGE COMMANDS

FORT MEADE – The South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, held three change-of-command ceremonies Sept. 7.



Col. Tim Moran, of Rapid City, took command of the 196th Regiment (RTI) during a change-of-command ceremony at the Fort Meade parade grounds. Moran took over the responsibilities from former commander Col. John Holter, of Rapid City, who served in the position since September 2011. Moran works full-time for the SDARNG at Camp Rapid as the state training officer. Holter will be assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City as the deputy chief of staff J3 Operations.



Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, of Rapid City, took command of 1st Battalion (Officer Candidate School), 196th Regiment (RTI), during a change-of-command ceremony at the Fort Meade parade grounds. Bartunek took over responsibilities from former commander Lt. Col. Keith Weber, of Mitchell, who served in the position since September 2011. Bartunek works full-time for the SDARNG at Camp

Rapid as the deputy G1 of personnel. Weber begins a Title-10 AGR tour at U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs.



Lt. Col. Mark Wiesner, of Garretson, took command of 2nd Battalion (Modular Training), 196th Regiment (RTI), during a change-of-command ceremony at the Sioux Falls National Guard armory. Wiesner took over responsibilities from former commander Lt. Col. Orson Ward, of Lead, who served in the position since September 2011. In civilian life, Wiesner works full-time for Keystone Mortgage as a loan officer. Ward is now assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City as a strategic planner.

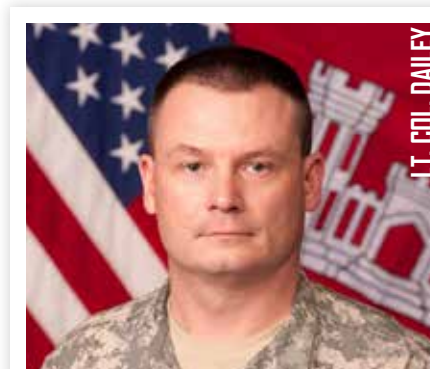
The 196th Regiment and its subordinate battalions provide general instruction on a variety of military courses to include Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer Candidate School and instruction in military occupational specialties such as truck driver (88M), multiple launch rocket system crewmember (13M) and operations/fire direction specialist (13P).

The 196th Regiment is one of the premier regional training institutes throughout the National Guard and earned "A Learning Institute of Excellence" rating by the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command in 2010 and 2013.

153RD ENGINEER BATTALION CHANGES LEADERSHIP

HURON – **Lt. Col. David Dailey**, of Sturgis, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 153rd Engineer Battalion during a change-of-command ceremony Sept. 7 at the Huron National Guard armory.

Dailey assumed responsibility from Lt. Col. Patrick Parady, of Howard, who served in the position since September 2011.



As the commander of the 153rd, Dailey is now responsible for the command and control of about 870 Soldiers in 7 units in 14 communities throughout South Dakota. The 153rd assists assigned units in meeting training, administrative and logistical requirements to maintain the unit's readiness in support of their state and federal missions.

In civilian life, Dailey works as a civil engineer for Heavy Constructors, Inc. of Rapid City, and serves as the assistant vice president responsible for managing the Portland Cement Concrete Paving and Structures Division.

Lt. Col. Parady is now assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City as the chief of Collective Training and Evaluation Branch.

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS CHANGES COMMAND

RAPID CITY – **Maj. Clint Shepherd**, of Torrington, Wyo., is the new detachment commander of South Dakota Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters. Shepherd received command of the unit Sept. 7 during a change-of-command ceremony at Camp Rapid from Maj. Anthony Deiss, of Rapid City, who commanded the unit since September 2011.

Joint Force Headquarters is one of four major commands in the South Dakota Army National Guard, and is a critical element for all 42 units across the state; providing command and control of essential services in administration, intelligence, training, logistics, maintenance, communications, Soldier and family services and other support functions.

In civilian life, Shepherd is employed as a correctional officer for the Wyoming Department of Corrections at the Wyoming Medium Correction Institute in Torrington. Deiss will become the Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs Officer.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee)

GRIESE NAMED NEW ARMY GUARD ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Brigadier General Kevin Griese is the new assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard. A Transfer of Authority ceremony took place between Griese and the outgoing assistant adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Craig Johnson, at the Joint Force Headquarters Readiness Center on Camp Rapid July 13.

As the assistant adjutant general, Griese is responsible to the South Dakota National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, for strategic planning, strength management, troop readiness and mobilization support of the state's nearly 3,300 Army National Guard Soldiers.

Griese, of Pierre, replaces Johnson, who served in the position since October 2012. Johnson, of Rapid City, will retire from the Guard after 36 years of service to the state and nation.

"Kevin Griese is a rock-solid officer who will do a tremendous job as the assistant adjutant general. I look forward to working with him in this new role," said Reisch. "General Johnson has also logged a truly remarkable career and I wish him and his wife Marcia the very best as he enters retirement."

"I am humbled and honored to have been selected as the new Army assistant adjutant general," said Griese. "I am extremely fortunate to be able to continue to serve in such a professional organization as the South Dakota Army National Guard."

During the ceremony, Griese was also promoted from the rank of colonel to brigadier general.

"I look forward to building upon the success the South Dakota Army Guard continues to achieve," said Griese. "Our number one responsibility is to continue to take care of our Soldiers and their families. We currently have Soldiers deployed in support of overseas contingency operations and with others projected for deployment. Taking care of them and their families is our number one priority."

Brig. Gen. Griese began his military career in January 1982 enlisting in the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 147th Field Artillery Brigade. He received his commission as a second lieutenant through the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology ROTC program in May 1986 and was branched as an engineer officer. Griese has held numerous command and staff positions within the 109th Engineer Battalion, the 153rd Engineer Battalion and the 109th Engineer Group. He also commanded the 153rd Engineer Battalion during its deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005.

After returning from the U.S. Army War College in 2008, Griese served briefly at Joint Force Headquarters before being assigned as the commander the 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute). His most recent assignment was commander of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Brig. Gen. Griese holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. In his civilian career, he is the geotechnical engineer for the South Dakota Department of Transportation.





(Photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss)

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Frank J. Grass, shakes hands with Spc. Kristen Croymans, a medic with the 730th Area Support Medical Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, during his visit to Lower Brule as a part the 29th annual Golden Coyote training exercise June 11. Gen. Grass toured the Lower Brule Indian Health Services' clinic where National Guard Soldiers provided immunizations, physicals and health education to Native American patients as a part of the two-week training exercise.



NGB CHIEF VISITS *GOLDEN COYOTE EXERCISE*

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Frank J. Grass, visited one of the largest and longest-running National Guard exercises in the country; Golden Coyote. The Joint Chiefs of Staff member visited the 29th annual training exercise June 11-12 throughout western and central South Dakota.

"I came out from NGB headquarters in Washington D.C. to have a chance to see what our troops are doing; what great training they're getting during annual training," said Gen. Grass. "This exercise is an opportunity for our Guardsmen to come...basically into the homeland and do some work, both for the civilian communities as well as training for active, Guard, Reserve and other nations that are here."

This year, more than 3,500 service members from 55 units representing 22 states, which included service members from five allied nations from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Canada, Kosovo and Germany, participated in the exercise.

"I had a chance to visit with the headquarters of the South Dakota National Guard and met with the staff there...and saw where they were treating their own water for this operation, for 3,500 troops...treating the water out

of a stream nearby, and then distributing it over hundreds of miles," said Gen. Grass.

Gen. Grass observed units conduct operations and train on their equipment, as well as employ tactics during one of the many training events and battle drills.

"It brings the exercise to a whole new level to have the senior person for the National Guard showing an interest in what we are doing here," said Maj. Pete Jerzak, officer in charge for the Warrior Training Platform. "Leadership starts at the basic level – squads and platoons – and he validated the need to challenge leaders and enforce warrior focused training in all that we do."

The Warrior Training Platform provides a valuable opportunity for units to train on skills needed for any future overseas deployment and includes urban combat operations, land navigation, medical first aid, casualty evacuation, and day and night convoy operations.

Gen. Grass also witnessed units complete various humanitarian service and engineer projects that help improve the forest and infrastructure of many local communities.

"I had a chance to visit with the unit that's doing a vertical construction mission...they're

actually constructing a building for the state and for a non-profit playhouse in the Black Hills," said Gen. Grass.

"For the Soldiers it's an incredible opportunity to have Gen. Grass here," said Capt. Mike Bierle, commander of the 155th Engineer Company, SDARNG. "For him to talk to these Soldiers, shake their hands, and show an interest in the training they are going through and the projects they working on really boosts their morale. He even helped put up a wall and got right in there with the Soldiers!"

Missions for the Golden Coyote exercise are mainly conducted throughout the Black Hills and surrounding area, both in local urban areas and remote wilderness sites. However this year, exercise participants are also conducting missions at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., more than 200 miles away.

"It's a great opportunity when you can bring active duty, Guard, Reserve and various countries together and work together in this environment...a very, very distributed environment, over hundreds of miles," said Gen. Grass. "Being able to communicate and pass the information up to the commander...and doing it in our homeland, in beautiful terrain like this is outstanding."



CEREMONY HONORS N.C. GUARDSMEN KILLED FIGHTING FIRE

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

EDGEMONT – A memorial ceremony was held July 1 to dedicate an interpretive site that honors the Airmen of the North Carolina Air National Guard C-130 aircraft that crashed one year ago to date while fighting the White Draw Fire near Edgemont.

Four members of the six-person Modular Airborne Firefighting System 7 (MAFFS-7) aircrew died when strong winds out of a thunderstorm caused their air tanker to impact the ground on a ridge top northeast of Edgemont.

“We are honoring these six North Carolina Guardsmen for their heroism and we are dedicating this site so that people will remember them forever,” said Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, during the ceremony. “It is impossible for any words to pass my lips that can express our incredible gratitude for the sacrifices that these men have made...but they will always be remembered by this memorial.”

The MAFFS-7 C-130 aircraft that crashed was from the NCANG's 145th Airlift Wing based at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. Killed were Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal, 42, of Mooresville; Maj. Joseph McCormick, 36, of Belmont; Maj. Ryan David, 35, of Boone; and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Cannon, 50, of Charlotte. Two survived but were seriously injured — Chief Master Sgt. Andy Huneycutt of Lancaster and Sgt. Josh Marlowe of Shelby.

More than 100 family members, friends and colleagues were present for the ceremony and to see the unveiling of the interpretive signs. Located approximately seven miles north of Edgemont along Hwy 18, the interpretive site overlooks the ridge where the aircraft crashed while dropping fire retardant on the White Draw Fire.

“None of them took off that day to become heroes, in fact they would all tell us assuredly if they were here that they were simply answering a call to duty,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory Lusk, adjutant general of the N.C. National Guard. “As we pay tribute to the crew – by commemorating on the anniversary this site – we acknowledge that they join a very

An interpretive sign that honors the Airmen of the North Carolina Air National Guard C-130 MAFFS-7 aircraft that crashed one year ago while supporting the White Draw Fire was dedicated July 1 near Edgemont. Four members of the six-person Modular Airborne Firefighting System 7 (MAFFS-7) aircrew died in 2012 when strong winds out of a thunderstorm caused their air tanker to impact the ground on a ridge top northeast of Edgemont.

long line of Minutemen who have for over 376 years done exactly what they did; just answer the call of the neighbor in need, service to the community and service to our nation.”

The construction of the interpretive site and signs were a collaborative effort between the South Dakota National Guard and Black Hills National Forest officials. The interpretive site includes a parking area and signs that tell the story of the fire and the fatal accident.

“The unveiling of this marker here today will assure that these heroes will indeed live forever,” said Lusk.



Maj. Gen. Gregory Lusk, adjutant general of the North Carolina National Guard, left, hugs Chief Master Sgt. Andy Huneycutt, MAFFS-7 crewmember, during the unveiling of an interpretive sign near Edgemont, July 1 that honors the Airmen of the North Carolina Air National Guard C-130 aircraft that crashed while supporting the White Draw Fire one year ago this day in 2012.



Capt. Carl Stearns (left), commander of Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, cases the unit guidon being held by 1st Sgt. Scott Bull during a restationing ceremony for the unit at the National Guard armory in Redfield June 21.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck)

CEREMONIES MARK END OF *GUARD'S HISTORIC SERVICE IN WEBSTER, REDFIELD*

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RED FIELD – Restationing ceremonies were held for units from Redfield and Webster, signaling the end of an era of National Guard units that have served these communities for nearly 130 years. Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, held its ceremony June 21 at the Redfield armory and Detachment 2, 147th Forward Support Company on July 14 at the Webster armory.

Both these Guard units have been restationed to Watertown and its new state-of-the-art regional readiness center. The units leave behind the armories that have housed Soldiers for decades, but the memories and respect of the communities for which they served they will take with them.

“(The 139th BSB) has been an integral member of our community for as long as any of us here can remember,” said Redfield Mayor Jamie Akin. “How do you say thank you to a member who has provided us such great leadership and role models to look up to?”

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG, spoke of the history of these Guard units during the ceremonies, dating back to before South Dakota’s statehood.

“Citizens put their hands in the air and said ‘hey, I’ll show up and I’ll protect the people’ and that was the start of the Dakota Territorial militia, which became the South Dakota National Guard,” said Reisch. “These units have been alive in one form or another until today.”

With the ceremonial casing of the units’ guidons, Company A and the FSC were officially transferred to Watertown, where they will continue to serve the people of South Dakota and the communities of Redfield and Webster.



Capt. Daren Ketcham (left), commander of the 147th Forward Support Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, cases the unit guidon along with 1st Sgt. Michael Becker during a restationing ceremony for the unit at the National Guard armory in Webster July 14. Det. 2, 147th FSC, is the last Guard unit to serve in Webster before being restationed to Watertown and into its new state-of-the-art regional readiness center. (Courtesy photo)

NEW WATERTOWN READINESS CENTER TO ENHANCE PREPAREDNESS FOR GUARD SOLDIERS



Story and photos by Sgt. Charlie Jacobson
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

WATERTOWN – South Dakota National Guard members, state and local government leaders, and community supporters gathered for the ceremonial ribbon cutting for SDNG's new regional readiness center in Watertown Sept. 7.

The \$25 million, 85,000 square-foot training facility is now the consolidated home for units from Miller, Redfield, Sisseton, Webster and Watertown. The consolidation of these units to this more centralized location will save money, maximize resources, provide better training opportunities and develop more cohesive units that will be ready to better support state and federal missions along with disaster response.

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, Representative Kristi Noem, Watertown Mayor Steve Thorson and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, were among the many leaders in attendance for the historic event.

"This new modern training facility meets today's quality training needs of the units stationed here," said Reisch. "They now have a facility that truly ensures their readiness through their training. This building also has the capabilities to facilitate response to local emergencies."

The readiness center, which is home to about 400 Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, 147th Forward Support Company and Company A, 139th Brigade



Military, state and local government leaders, and project managers conduct the ceremonial ribbon cutting ceremony for the new South Dakota Army National Guard regional readiness center in Watertown Sept. 7.

Support Battalion, features administrative office spaces, a large, hi-barreled drill floor, four classrooms, distance-learning center, library, training-simulation hall, maintenance-training bay, unit storage areas and a fitness center. The facility replaces Watertown's aging National Guard armory, which has been in existence since 1958. Construction on the new building began in August 2011.

"This facility is a masterpiece and has been widely received with open arms by the Watertown community," said Ernie Edwards, retired assistant adjutant general for the SDNG and Watertown resident. "We have seen training opportunities for Soldiers vastly improve with modern technology. This new facility will continue to support unit readiness. It is a very good thing."

While the consolidation of units and Soldiers provides great opportunities for Watertown, Reisch made it clear that the SDNG will not forget the communities who are losing their Guard units.

"Sisseton, Webster, Miller and Redfield are all great Guard communities," said

Reisch. "I have ensured all of their community leaders that if they have a community project or community disaster that they can continue to call on the South Dakota National Guard for support."

As the SDNG continues to ensure Soldier training and readiness needs for the future, decisions like the consolidation did not happen overnight. The process of funding new armories is lengthy, and can take upwards of 15 years. Plans for the readiness center have been in the works since 1996. The readiness center was selected for funding through the military construction process, which provides for new facilities that enhance training and readiness for units.

"The community of Watertown has worked hand-in-hand with the SDNG for almost 20 years to make this facility a reality," Reisch said. "We look forward to many continued years of that strong partnership with the people here, and could not be more excited than cementing that relationship here today."

RAPID CITY SOLDIERS WELCOMED HOME AFTER DEPLOYMENT

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – A welcome home ceremony for four Soldiers of the 1978th Contingency Contracting Team, South Dakota Army National Guard, was held Sept. 24 at Camp Rapid. Maj. Matthew Symonds, Capt. Paula Moore, Sgt. 1st Class Jack Hahne and Staff Sgt. Amanda Galdo returned home after a nearly 10-month tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit deployed last November.

The mission of the Rapid City-based 1978th was to assist with the development and administration of contracting support plans and policies in support of U.S. and coalition forces throughout Afghanistan. The Soldiers ensured contracting officers executed valid, legally enforceable documents, prepared in full compliance with federal procurement regulations and directives.

Speakers for the ceremony included Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson, director of the joint staff for the SDNG.

"I want to thank each of you for what you have done, representing our state and our nation," said Daugaard. "I know your work was greatly appreciated by the people you helped, whether coalition forces or the local nationals. You did a fantastic job and welcome home!"

During the unit's deployment, their contracting efforts directly impacted daily life-support services and commodities



South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1978th Contingency Contracting Team stand to be recognized during their welcome home ceremony Sept. 24, on Camp Rapid in Rapid City. The 1978th returned from a nearly 10-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

that are needed for a forward operating base or combat outpost to be functional; such as private security for bases, dining facility operations, construction projects, trash and waste removal, trucking services and heavy equipment rentals and operators.

"We are all very happy to be home and are proud of the job we performed while in Afghanistan," said Maj. Symonds, 1978th commander. "We are all very proud to wear the South Dakota National Guard patch and to have the opportunity to serve and represent the National Guard in the contracting field – a job that is predominately performed by active-duty military personnel."

The unit administered contracts ranging between \$9 million and more than \$900

million worth of services and commodities during their deployment. Working out of regional contracting offices throughout eastern and southern Afghanistan, the Soldiers were stationed separately at different camps and forward operating bases, and the contracts they oversaw supported tens of thousands of troops.

Some of the major commands the 1978th supported include the 101st Airborne Division, II Marine Expeditionary Unit, several brigade combat teams, U.S. Special Forces, Afghan National Army, Police and Border Patrol forces, as well as coalition forces from Romania, Jordan, Czechoslovakia and Georgia. Many of the contracts managed by the team also had a significant impact on Afghanistan's economy.

Whether local Afghan companies or businesses were awarded contracts for providing laborers, security, cultural advisors, road repair, trucking services, non-tactical vehicles leases or construction services, they all helped to employ local Afghans and support economic growth.

The team also trained field ordering officers, contracting officer representatives and paying agents who helped to administer and oversee the contracts throughout their areas of operation. The team also advised mission commanders from the U.S. Army and coalition forces on acquisition strategies, resource availability and fiscal responsibility.



Capt. Paula Moore hugs a friend along with Staff Sgt. Amanda Galdo, right, during their welcome home ceremony for the 1978th Contingency Contracting Team, South Dakota Army National Guard, Sept. 24, on Camp Rapid in Rapid City. The 1978th returned from a nearly 10-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

NATIONAL AWARD NAMED IN HONOR OF FORMER SD GUARDSMAN

Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck
SDNG Public Affairs Office

Marty Kendrick



Every man and woman of the Army National Guard serves for his or her own reason. Some join to serve their country or their state, some to learn trades or to advance their civilian education, and then there are some who dedicate their careers to serving their fellow Soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Martin “Marty” Kendrick was one of these individuals, a man who dedicated his life to understanding the individual Soldier and working to enhance programs and processes to better serve those with whom he served. What makes his dedication so unique was described by his co-workers as an “unyielding drive to better the life of Soldiers” who had not even had the opportunity to earn that title, the newest, un-indoctrinated trainees, the men and women in the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP).

RSP is the program that assists new recruits on their path to becoming a Soldier; beginning before they make the trek to Basic Combat Training. Kendrick was among the first group who laid the foundation for the RSP program in South Dakota. He dedicated more than six years of his life to ensuring the program ran smoothly so that each recruit would be prepared for their initial entry into the military lifestyle.

Last year, the National Guard Bureau created a quality award to honor the state’s Recruit Sustainment Program that led the nation in quality control. This award was named the Marty Kendrick Award in honor of the late Martin Kendrick, who spent four years as the state contract supervisor for the RSP for South Dakota.

Kendrick was diagnosed with cancer in 2008, but he continued his dedicated service to the RSP long after. Marty Kendrick succumbed to cancer at his home in Winner, S.D., on July 22, 2011 – three years after being diagnosed.

Shortly after Marty’s passing, Mark Thomas, the RSP contractor for eastern South Dakota, contacted the RSP program manager for the Army National Guard, Rowland Ehlert, with the idea of creating an award to

be named for the late Kendrick, an award that would immortalize Kendrick’s dedication to the RSP program.

“(Marty) would come to work in the morning, go get his chemo, then come back to work,” said Thomas.

Ehlert recognized this dedication in the letters that he received from the South Dakotans who were asking him to name the award for Kendrick.

“(This) award is a tribute to the passion that Marty displayed for the quality control process... and the RSP Warrior,” said Ehlert.

Kendrick was involved with the RSP program from its inception in April of 2005, beginning in the administrative and instructing arena as a National Guard Soldier and then working as a contractor at the state level managing the program and tracking the program’s successes. He also analyzed and found solutions for the weak points in this relatively new program.

Martin “Marty” Joseph Kendrick was a career Soldier, enlisting in the United States Army out of high school. He served three years in Germany and one year at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. He came to South Dakota in 1982, and married Debra Bertram, whom he had met while stationed in Alabama, on June 11, 1983. The Kendricks made their home in Winner. Martin Kendrick took a full-time job with the South Dakota Army National Guard in Rapid City. During this time he lived in an apartment during the workweek and travelled home to be with his family on the weekends.

“(Marty) had an apartment in Rapid (City) and commuted back and forth a lot of weekends,” recalled Diane Rensch, who worked with Marty in the RSP.

Mark Thomas worked with Marty in recruiting in 2006. He described Marty as having a “flat-out total dedication to taking care of troops, which he displayed by ensuring their paperwork was perfect.”

Kendrick’s other co-workers in the program echoed the same sentiments.

National Guard Bureau named a national Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) quality award after the late Sgt. 1st Class Martin Kendrick of the South Dakota National Guard. Kendrick dedicated many years of his career, including four years as the state supervisor for the RSP, ensuring that the RSP evolved into the program it is today. (Courtesy photo)

“Marty was all about knowing the rules and regulations,” said Sgt. 1st Class Grant Serna, who worked with Marty in the Recruit Sustainment Program. “He knew them inside and out, and always knew where to find the answers to the hard questions.”

“Marty certainly made an impression upon those he served with,” said Ehlert.

“A testament to (Marty’s dedication) is that Marty was the first ever recipient of the National RSP Supervisor of the Year Award.”

Kendrick was very dedicated to the RSP, and his dedication showed in many ways. He often worked long hours, going far beyond expectations in order to ensure that the job was done right.

“He was very dedicated, always there when I came in for the morning, and always there until who-knows-when in the evening, long after the rest of the office had gone home,” said Rensch of Marty’s dedication to the job.

The first Marty Kendrick Recruit Sustainment Program National Quality Control Award was presented in December of 2011 to the Hawaii Army National Guard RSP. The bottom of the perpetual award reads: “For outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence on behalf of the RSP warrior,” an ideal that Martin J. Kendrick displayed every day of his career, encouraged others to take up and continues to inspire current RSP cadre to uphold.

FROM THE 114th FW Public Affairs Office – In the Dakota Pack, Spring 2012 issue, we did a story on Senior Master Sgt. James Kelley and Tech. Sgt. Sidney Robbins as the unit's last Vietnam veterans that retired from the South Dakota Air National Guard. We want to apologize to Senior Master Sgt. Steve Abraham for mistakenly identifying them as such and not identifying him at that time. We would like to rectify that mistake now with the following story.

SD AIR GUARD SAYS GOODBYE TO LAST VIETNAM VET

By Master Sgt. Christopher Stewart
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



The South Dakota Air National Guard official bid farewell to the last of its members who served in Vietnam when Senior Master Sgt. Steve Abraham, Headquarters – SDANG, retired from his full-time position with the human resources office of the South Dakota National Guard at Camp Rapid.

Abraham first enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1973. Early in his career, Abraham knew he wanted to work with aircraft, just as his father did for the Army Air Corps. The Marines trained Abraham in aviation technology. After his training was complete, Abraham was assigned to Marine Corp Air Station Yuma, Ariz., as his first duty station. Shortly after his arrival at Yuma, Abraham received orders to go to Okinawa, Japan. Just five short months later, rumors started to spread of a pending deployment to Vietnam to help with evacuation efforts.

Then a corporal, Abraham joined the 7th fleet of the Navy and was stationed on the USS Hancock. Here, he supported the helicopter contingent that was sent to evacuate service members and political refugees from South Vietnam and Cambodia, as those countries fell to opposing forces. Abraham recalls over 3,000 new inhabitants arriving at the USS Hancock that day. Abraham played an integral part in this operation by supporting the helicopters launching and returning to the USS Hancock during this incredible mission.

In 1977, Abraham left the Marines and joined the South Dakota Air National Guard. He first enlisted into the weapons maintenance section.

"This seemed like a good way to keep going with my military career and stay at home," Abraham said. "I left the Air Guard in late 1978 because I wasn't really happy with what I was doing."

Unable to avoid a path with the military he knew he was destined to have, Abraham

rejoined the South Dakota Air National Guard in 1986 as an aircraft electrician. He was later hired full-time in 1992.

"In 1993, I applied for and was hired as a crew chief which brought me back to a flight line," said Abraham. "Then I was really able to put my training to work."

Abraham spent 11 years as a crew chief with the unit before accepting a position with Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City. His latest position was with human resources, working entitlements and benefits, which he retired from June 19. Abraham will stay in Rapid

City now that he has retired. He recently has been certified as a home inspector and plans to inspect homes in the area.

When asked what advice he could give young Airmen, Abraham responded, "Do what you love. If you have an interest in book keeping; work in finance, if you have an interest in mechanics; do what you can to become an aircraft mechanic."

He went on to say "take advantage of all the educational opportunities that the military has to offer. You can't go wrong with extra education."



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PIERRE GUARD UNIT HONORED AT DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

PIERRE – Sixty-eight Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion were honored during a deployment ceremony July 6 in Pierre. Hundreds of family members, friends and community supporters gathered at the T.F. Riggs High School auditorium to see the Soldiers off as they depart for about a six-month tour to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This is the first deployment for the unit.

Speakers for the ceremony included Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG.

"This is a great day, because this (ceremony) brings us together because of our love for the Soldiers that are being deployed today," said Daugaard. "Our admiration for their great competence, skill, courage, dedication and loyalty to our state and our nation inspires us to come together and show them how much we appreciate them."

"I couldn't be more proud of this unit," said Reisch. "This unit has executed a rigorous training plan to prepare this unit for deployment, and there is no doubt in my mind that your performance during this deployment will add to the impressive legacy of the South Dakota National Guard."

The mission of the 152nd's Headquarters and Headquarters Company will be to provide multi-functional combat support and combat service support to forces throughout an assigned area of operation. Multi-functional areas include supply, transportation, maintenance and ordnance support.

"We will do everything possible to go over there and do great things and come home safe. That's our number one goal," said Lt. Col. Michael Oster, commander of the 152nd. "Our second goal is to live in a place where excellence is not only our expectation but also that it becomes our average. So on a bad day we're great and on a good day we are spectacular. That's what we're going to do in the 152nd."



Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion are honored during a deployment ceremony July 6 in Pierre. Hundreds of family members, friends and community supporters gathered at the T.F. Riggs High School auditorium to see the Pierre-based unit off as they depart for about a six-month tour to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Soldiers that comprise the Pierre-based Guard unit come from 28 different South Dakota communities. While many of the Soldiers will be deploying for the first time, more than half of the unit are deploying for the second or third time.

"People from all across South Dakota and are assigned to this unit, and is an incredible representation, not only of the state but of our National Guard," said Oster. "This unit is truly made up of engineers, artillery transportation, logisticians, and it's an incredible cross-representation of who we are and what we do. That means you have a great team in front of you to go forward and take on this mission."



Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion stand to be recognized during a deployment ceremony July 6 in Pierre. Hundreds of family members, friends and community supporters gathered at the T.F. Riggs High School auditorium to see the Pierre-based unit off as they depart for about a six-month tour to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



SD GUARD HELICOPTER CREW DEPARTS TO SUPPORT SOUTHWEST BORDER MISSION

By SDNG Public Affairs Office



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck)

A South Dakota Army National Guard LUH-72 Lakota helicopter lifts off for a training flight Aug. 22 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City to prepare for a mission to the U.S. Southwest border in support of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to enhance the security of the southwest border.

RAPID CITY – Members of the South Dakota National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility, of Rapid City, recently deployed for a mission to the U.S. Southwest border. The Guardsmen will provide aerial detection and monitoring with LUH-72 Lakota helicopters in support of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to enhance the security of the Southwest border.

The Lakota provides an aerial platform equipped with visual and infrared cameras and a high-powered searchlight capable of providing an 'eye in the sky,' day or night. This allows the aircraft to assist in the direction of U.S. Border Patrol personnel on the ground toward areas of suspicious activity, which may include drug smuggling, human trafficking and illegal immigration.

This is the second time the SDNG has deployed aircraft in support of the Southwest border mission, but it's the first time its own LUH-72 aircraft will be used for this operation – the SDNG deployed an OH-58 Kiowa to the border for aerial surveillance in 2006-2007. The SDNG was first fielded Lakota helicopters in May 2011. Until now, the aircraft has mainly been used in support of state missions and crew training.

SECOND TIME THE SDNG
HAS DEPLOYED AIRCRAFT IN
SUPPORT OF THE SOUTHWEST
BORDER MISSION



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck)

The OH-58 Kiowa helicopter made its final flight as a part of the South Dakota Army National Guard May 31 at the Rapid City Regional Airport. The Kiowa is retiring from the SDARNG's inventory after nearly two decades of service and is being replaced by the LUH-72 Lakota helicopter.

GUARD MAKES FINAL FLIGHT OF LEGACY AIRCRAFT

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – The OH-58 Kiowa helicopter has served in the U.S. Army since 1969, and served nearly two decades as a part of the South Dakota Army National Guard's inventory. The OH-58 made its final flight May 31 at the Rapid City Regional Airport and marked the end of this aircraft's service as a part of the SDARNG.

The aircraft was replaced by the newer LUH-72 Lakota helicopter, which began its service in the SDARNG in May 2011.

The Kiowa entered service with the SDARNG in the fall of 1991, serving the role of aerial scout and forward observer platform as part of the 137th Aviation. Two detachments of the 137th were formed in Rapid City at its Army Aviation Support Facility: Detachment 4, 2/137th Aviation and Detachment 2, Company A, 2/137th Aviation.

The OH-58 served five years before initially leaving the SDARNG's service in August of 1996. The Kiowa returned to service in the South Dakota Guard in May 2002. The state received two OH-58 aircraft with the newly formed Reconnaissance and Aerial Interdiction Detachment (RAID) unit. The primary mission of the RAID unit was to provide support for law enforcement agencies for counter-narcotics operations. These Kiowas were fitted with infrared cameras and powerful spotlights in order to fulfill this role.

The Kiowa flew numerous counter-narcotics, search and rescue and public event missions since 2002, which is a testament to the legacy of the aircraft serving in the counter-narcotics role.

OH-58 KIOWA HELICOPTER
- U.S. ARMY SINCE 1969



Senior Master Sgt. Rick Larson, 114th Fighter Wing's emergency manager, discusses the different methods terrorist can use to get their point across to help identify new vulnerabilities during a table-top exercise June 13 at Joe Foss Field. During the event, representatives from all areas of the unit came together to talk about the ways in which terrorists might attack, and how the South Dakota Air National Guard can prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks.

AIR GUARD PREPARES FOR TERRORIST ATTACKS

Story and photos by Chief Master Sgt. Donald McLeer
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIOUX FALLS – Terrorists attacked the South Dakota Air National Guard recently, if only in conversation. The 114th Fighter Wing conducted a table-top, discussion-based exercise on June 13 at Joe Foss Field. During the event, representatives from all areas of the unit came together to talk about the ways in which terrorists might attack, and how the South Dakota Air National Guard can prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks.

The exercise is a great way to do get unit members thinking about strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.

"The table-top exercise highlights incidents that have happened, could happen and what will probably happen again," said Senior Master Sgt. Rick Larson, 114th Fighter Wing's emergency manager. "Discussing the different methods terrorist can use to get their point across helps identify new vulnerabilities."

Larson also referred to the recent Boston Marathon bombing.

"The bombs were made from crock pots. We live in a world of non-standard, asymmetrical threats," said Larson. "Our goal for the table-top exercise is to maintain a high level of situational awareness. Above all, we want to protect the Airman and protect the mission. Preparedness is key."

The table-top exercise also involved civilian entities such as law enforcement, fire and rescue, and emergency medical support.

"There are a lot of moving parts involved with emergency response operations. In the end, we all come together to support an emergency," said Larson.

The table-top exercise was conducted in conjunction with a Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (JSIVA), which is a vulnerability-based assessment of military installations to determine acceptability to a terrorist attack. The JSIVA program is managed by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) as the executive agent for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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PREPAREDNESS IS KEY."

- LARSON



Senior Master Sgt. Richard Larson, 114th Fighter Wing emergency manager, oversees operations in the Emergency Operation Center during a combined unit exercise at Joe Foss Field June 9. The unit is the first in the nation to test run the new CoBRA software system and will make recommendations for improvements to the manufacturer.

SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD FIRST TO USE COBRA

By Senior Airman Amanda Bradshaw
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

JOE FOSS FIELD – The South Dakota Air National Guard tested a new computer management software that supports the units' emergency operation center, or EOC. The EOC filters information from commanders to National Guard members during a combined unit exercise. The new software, named CoBRA, helps the EOC director provide situational awareness and support tools to the sixteen different commanders.

The unit is the first in the nation to test the CoBRA system during the exercise, which took place in June at Joe Foss Field. Emergency management coordinator, Senior Master Sgt. Rick Larson, explains the programs' purpose.

"CoBRA provides a situational awareness aspect along with the common operating picture that provides commanders with the decision support tools that they need to make informed decisions with the guidance of their organization and a contingency response," he said.

Larson also notes that the programs' automated features such as instant messaging, Rich Site Summary (RSS), and web feeds complete the common operation picture by giving members the most up-to-date information possible.

In short, CoBRA functions much like social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. CoBRA is the central post where information like chemical detection points, medical emergencies, etc. is shared immediately and universally across the base.

The lessons learned during the exercise have been noted.

Brad Gardner, developer for Defense Group Inc., along with subject matter expert, Master Sgt. Jarod Hiles of the 140th Fighter Wing, will report requested improvements to the software's manufacturer. CoBRA will be released to all Air National Guard units within 12 months.

The instant and universal feed provided by CoBRA allows commanders to take deliberate action.

According to Larson, members of the 114th Fighter Wing are proud to have an active hand in the shaping of DoD technology.



South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard welcomes home U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. John M. Whalen, 114th Maintenance Squadron aircraft egress technician, as he returns to Joe Foss Field Sept. 3.

AIRMEN RETURN FROM SOUTHWEST ASIA

By 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIOUX FALLS – The South Dakota Air National Guard completed a three-month deployment to Southwest Asia in support of the U.S. Air Force's Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation plan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Approximately 200 Airmen of the 114th Fighter Wing departed from Joe Foss Field in July and returned home in September.

While deployed, the Airmen supported ongoing F-16 Combat Air Force operations. This deployment was the fourth large-scale deployment for the 114th Fighter Wing, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, since 2006.



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By SDNG Public Affairs Office

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck)

Despite Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's announcement in August of potential cuts to troop numbers across the military due to the sequester, the South Dakota National Guard is still looking for new recruits to join its ranks.

While the Defense Department has made no decision to reduce the overall size of the Army and Air National Guard's approximately 463,700 members, which includes about 4,300 South Dakota Guardsmen, South Dakota Army and Air National Guard recruiters are working to make sure they meet their current end strength goals.

"Right now we need new recruits to join," said Lt. Col. Kory Knight, commander for the SDARNG's Recruiting and Retention Command. "We have openings in about 60 positions across the state that we need South Dakota's finest to fill, both men and women."

Knight said while South Dakota has typically ranked as one of the top states in the nation when it comes to recruiting, numbers have dropped off in recent months. Knight believes the budget uncertainty is contributing to the decline in new enlistees.

"With all the national-level talk of budget cuts, furloughs and possible troop reductions across the different services, I think it has created a false impression among prospective recruits and the general public that the Guard

doesn't need new members," said Knight.

"When our recruiters are out in our South Dakota communities talking to high school and college students, they seem to be surprised we are there, said Master Sgt. John Mallinger, senior non-commissioned officer-in-charge of recruiting. "They think we are already reducing our numbers or that we have all the Soldiers we need."

And it's not just the Army Guard that is in need; Air Guard recruiting is also trying to keep up with demand. According to Senior Master Sgt. Brian Voges, recruiting and retention superintendent, the Air Guard is short on filling positions.

"We have 10 more projected losses for the remainder of the year, so we need approximately 22 more enlistments to reach 100 percent manning," he said. "As far as next year – we typically lose about eight members per month or 96 a year – our goal would be to at least meet that number or exceed it so we stay at or above 100 percent."

While about 540 members of the Guard's full-time force have endured furloughs imposed by the government sequester, unaffected are traditional Guard members who drill one weekend a month, two weeks a year.

"Although the Guard's full-time, federal-technician work force is being affected by the furlough, our part-time traditional Guard members are not," said Mallinger. "They are still receiving all their pay and benefits."

Mallinger also believes some confusion has been generated in the public from multiple sources, which has unintentionally steered potential recruits away.

"I think potential recruits have gotten bits and pieces of information in the media or from friends when it comes to how the budget uncertainty will affect the different components of the military," he said. "They hear or assume one piece of information about one component and relate it to the Guard, and it inadvertently affects their decision to inquire about joining the Guard."

"A couple of my friends have been asking why we are trying so hard to recruit when they have heard the whole military doesn't need people," said Pfc. Allison Morrisette, 19, a new enlistee to the Guard and freshman at Chadron State University. "They have active-duty Army friends who say that the Army has slowed or even stopped recruiting efforts."

Morrisette, who worked for the Recruiting Command this summer, said young people don't differentiate the regular Army from the National Guard.

"About every person we talked too – 80 or 90 percent – seemed to think we are the same as the Army and don't need more recruits," said Morrisette. "They are really shocked to know there is difference between the Guard and the regular military."

While in recent months the active-duty Army has reported about scaling back

recruitment to prevent exceeding their end strength goals, this is not true for the South Dakota Guard. It's not just the 60 Soldiers the Army Guard is hoping to gain by the year's end; Knight said the organization is shooting to recruit another 350-400 members for next year.

"As our Guardsmen begin to retire, separate or transfer out of the organization, we need new recruits to come in behind them and take their place," said Knight. "In order for the Guard to remain a viable force for our state and nation, we need new members to make sure we maintain our troop readiness levels."

"The 'we are hiring' sign is always on at the Air Guard," said Voges. "With the aging force, retirements are always happening, thus creating new opportunities for those who want to serve."

Despite the budget uncertainty of the nation, Knight said now is the best time for prospective recruits to take a look at joining the Guard. In an economy with a struggling job market and rising education costs, Knight says the Guard can provide the financial and educational boost students may need.

"We provide many educational benefits for college and vocational schools, a steady part-time check and an opportunity to learn a specialized skill," said Knight. "Soldiers can specialize in fields such as engineering, communications and computer systems and medical, which can easily transfer into a civilian career."

The Army National Guard funds up to 100 percent of tuition costs and fees, up to \$4,500 per person, per fiscal year. The state of South Dakota also offers its Guard members a 50 percent tuition waiver at state-supported universities and technical schools. Knight says these incentives may also be used in addition to the Montgomery G.I. Bill and Pell grants. New members may also be eligible to receive student loan repayment.

"On top of the training that a new recruit receives, they can also receive up to tens of thousands of dollars to pursue their post-secondary education," said Knight. "With many graduates coming out of college having accumulated huge debt from school loans, the Guard can significantly reduce the financial burden they would have to endure. With all these opportunities and incentives, there is no better time to join."

"Most join for schooling benefits and a paycheck," said Voges, of non-prior service applicants who join the Air Guard. "For the prior-service applicants, they list healthcare and retirement benefits along with they miss serving their country."




"The educational benefits are helping a lot," said Morrisette, who is studying to become a

dental hygienist. "The Guard has a tuition assistance program and the G.I. Bill. and it helps a lot more than what I initially thought prior to joining."

While the fiscal constraints of the nation are yet to be resolved, South Dakota recruiters continue to search for prospective recruits and counter the notion the Guard does not need new members. Morrisette and Voges say anyone interested in joining needs to get the correct information from the source.

"We have been able to overcome and educate individuals that the cutbacks are not the case for the Guard," said Voges. "We continue to reiterate that our mission is strong and a vital part of the total force concept."

"My advice to anyone who is thinking about joining the National Guard would be to talk to a recruiter and get the facts," said Morrisette. "Don't rely on rumors or speculate about what might happen. If you want to serve, we need you."

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SD SOLDIERS COMPETE IN STATE'S

BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck
SDNG Public Affairs Office

Thirty-five South Dakota Army National Guard enlisted Soldiers and non-commissioned officers competed in the state's Best Warrior Competition Sept. 19-21 at Camp Rapid. The competition tested the Guardsmen mentally, physically and emotionally through a series of events designed to challenge the toughest of Soldiers. Both men and women competed for the ultimate prize; to be named as either the state's Soldier or Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

Some of the events included a written exam, essay writing, battle drills, M-16 rifle marksmanship, land navigation, obstacle course, six-mile road march (carrying a 40-pound pack) and a physical fitness test.

Events began as soon as the participants arrived the first day. As the event lagged late into the night, they were given a written exam and an essay to write, while each Soldier awaited

his or her turn to face a formal board. During the board, each competitor's dress uniform was scrutinized while they answered questions asked by a panel of sergeants major. They also had to recite the Soldier's or NCO's creed.

Early the next morning, every competitor was given the Army Physical Fitness Test, which includes push-ups, sit-ups and a two-mile run. After breakfast, the Soldiers and NCOs were moved to the rifle range to conduct a shooting event and to an obstacle course; an event that tested both physical conditioning and determination.

Among the competitors, the "weaver" obstacle was almost unanimously nominated as the hardest on the course; where Soldiers moved over and under a series of parallel wooden beams.

"The weaver was definitely the hardest obstacle on the course," said Sgt. Jessica Nielsen of the 155th Engineer Company of Rapid City.

Despite the rigors of the obstacle course, Spc. Daniel Leacraft, of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade of Sioux Falls, was able to complete the circuit in less than five minutes, making him the fastest competitor in the event, which took competitors an average of seven minutes, 18 seconds.

Opinions differed among competitors about the most difficult event of the competition; however many deemed that the road march carrying a 40-pound pack for a six mile stretch of the Mickelson Trail was the most difficult single event.

"The (rucksack) march was the hardest event," said Sgt. Melissa Nelson, of Aberdeen's 740th Transportation Company. "It was also the most bittersweet."

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dotson of Rapid City, an instructor with the 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, finished seconds behind Sgt. Samantha Burma of the Medical Command of Rapid City. Dotson



Staff Sgt. Michael Dotson of Rapid City, a member of the Sioux Falls-based 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, crawls under a wire obstacle on an obstacle course Sept. 20 at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City.



Spc. Brandon Adams, Battery A, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion of Aberdeen, takes careful aim during the M-16 rifle qualification event Sept. 20 at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City.

slowed down and encouraged Burma, ensuring that she crossed the finish line before him.

"I knew going into the event that I was the oldest competitor," said Dotson. "I am hoping that others can take away from this what I brought."

After three-long days and 12 events, it was two members of Watertown's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion that walked away with top honors from this year's Best Warrior Competition.

Staff Sgt. Sam Schaefer of Watertown was the winner in the NCO category and earned the title of NCO of the Year. Spc. Dalton DeBoer of Clear Lake won in the enlisted category and was named the Soldier of the Year.

"It feels good to represent my unit," said Schaefer. "I appreciate the opportunity to do this, and it opens my eyes to good training."

"It was a great training experience," said DeBoer. "I got to meet a lot of good Soldiers and can now pass along what they do to be the best."



SPC. DALTON DEBOER



STAFF SGT. SAM SCHAEFERS



Spc. Dilyn Thompson, Battery B, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion of Yankton, runs the last stretch to the finish line during a road march event on Sept. 21 at the fairgrounds in Deadwood.



Sgt. Adam Foster, 115th Brigade Signal Company of Brookings, gets his bearings during the land navigation event Sept. 20 at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City.



Sgt. Jessica Myers, 730th Area Support Medical Company of Vermillion, climbs an inclined ladder during the obstacle course event Sept. 20 at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City.

FRSA, FAC, FACC, FAS, FRG...WHAT?

By Sheri Bartunek, Family Assistance coordinator & Lynn Wright, Senior Family Readiness support assistant

Who are they? What are they? Do you really need to know? Of course you do! All work together to provide a coordinated and comprehensive approach to service and family member readiness and resiliency, but what exactly do they do and what do they offer?

The FRSA, or Family Readiness Support Assistant, supports and assists unit commanders in developing and maintaining their unit's family readiness program. Family readiness is the commander's tool done in partnership with families to maintain readiness and develop self-reliant and resilient families that can withstand separations due to weekend drills, mobilizations, annual training, state active duty and military schools. To do this, the FRSA provides training, guidance and information pertaining to family readiness, which assists commanders in making informed decisions about their unit's program.

There are three Family Readiness Support Assistants in S.D.; all are contract employees who serve Army National Guard units and families within the S.D. National Guard. Lynn Wright and Kristin Neuhardt are located in Rapid City. Lynn in the Service Member and Family Support Office and Kristin supports 109th Regional Support Group units. Matt Weeg, located in Sioux Falls, supports 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade units.



FRGs, or Family Readiness Groups, are formed in each unit and comprised of volunteers who work to provide support, education and information to the service and family members through newsletters, family telephone trees, emails, Facebook, and educational classes on such things as the unit's mission, benefits, resources and resiliency in accordance with the unit commander's guidance. They are trained and supported by the FRSA.

In contrast, the FAC, or Family Assistance Center, provides support and guidance by

coordinating community resources to aid service and family members. The FACC and FACS (Family Assistance Center Coordinator and Family Assistance Center Specialist, respectfully) are contracted to assist with crisis referral, ID cards and Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS), TRICARE, financial and legal services referral. They also conduct outreach to families of deployed service members. Although FACS are housed in National Guard armories across the state, they support all service and family members regardless of branch of service.



Kim Chase, located in Brookings, supports units in Brookings, DeSmet, Madison, Huron and Flandreau. Corinne Mahlen, located in Watertown, supports Watertown, Milbank, Aberdeen and Mobridge while Rachel VanderZee, located at the Air National Guard in Sioux Falls, supports the Air Guard, Reserves and Sioux Falls armory. In Mitchell, Emily Soulek works with units located in Mitchell, Pierre, Chamberlain, Parkston, Wagner, Yankton and Vermillion. The Army aviation units along with Sturgis, Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Rapid City are supported by Kaylie Sterud in Rapid City. Sheri Bartunek, also located in Rapid City, is the coordinator for S.D.'s Family Assistance Center program.

The FRSA and FRGs missions focus on readiness and resiliency and when life happens and some additional support is needed, FAC is there to provide that assistance. Now that you know what a FRSA, FAC/FAS and FRG are and what they do, can you see how they can help build your family's readiness and ability to deal with the daily challenges of life?



842nd Family Day

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS, PLEASE CONTACT THE SERVICE MEMBER AND FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICE - FAMILY READINESS AT 605-737-6089 OR THE FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER AT 800-658-3930.

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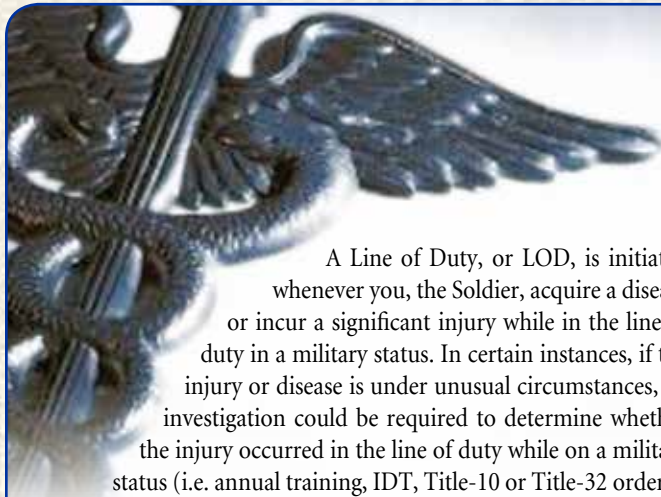
**Military Times Edge magazine.



Lt. Col. Andy Gerlach, second from left, and Lt. Col. Barry Whitney, third from left, receive their diplomas after graduating from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Va., July 27. Also pictured from left are Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Kevin Giese, assistant adjutant general, SDARNG, and Col. Bill Freidel, vice chief of staff, SDARNG. (Courtesy photo)



Craig Hagen, Sioux Falls Airshow 2012 chair, presents a check for \$5,000 to Christina Smith, treasurer of the Family Volunteer Group for Air in Sioux Falls June 19. The funds were a collaborative fundraising effort put on by the 2012 Airshow committee, the local chapter of the Air Force Association and the South Dakota Air National Guard. Also pictured from left to right, back row; Chuck Nelson, Airshow committee member, Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) Edwin Revell, local AFA President, left to right, second row; Nicole Wajer, advisor to Family Volunteer Group, Vanny Revell, local AFA secretary, and Sara Hilmoe, lead volunteer for the Family Volunteer Group in 2012. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)



WHAT IS A LOD?

By CW2 Kim Harming
JI Health Services Office

A Line of Duty, or LOD, is initiated whenever you, the Soldier, acquire a disease or incur a significant injury while in the line of duty in a military status. In certain instances, if the injury or disease is under unusual circumstances, an investigation could be required to determine whether the injury occurred in the line of duty while on a military status (i.e. annual training, IDT, Title-10 or Title-32 orders).

A LOD helps determine your pay and allowances while injured in a military status and also assists with further medical care. A LOD is initiated when any Soldier (in a military status) properly notifies his/her unit representative (after an injury or illness) to fill out the required paperwork. In some cases, LODs can also assist in determining eligibility for a duty-related medical evaluation board.

It is in your best interest to notify a unit representative immediately if you sustain an injury or illness which requires medical attention. The unit representative will assist you through the process and provide the proper guidance when initiating a LOD.

However, if you fail to notify your chain of command and fill out the proper paperwork before seeking medical attention, you risk going through an investigation and incurring medical expenses at your own cost.

LODs completed in a timely manner help you to get the necessary medical attention you need. It also assists the unit full-time staff and leadership complete the process by their required suspense dates set forth by regulation. A key component to getting your needed medical attention and the unit meeting the suspense dates is for you to provide the required medical documentation and fill out the appropriate paperwork in a timely manner.

If you choose to wait to submit an LOD, you will need to prove the injury or illness occurred while in a military status. If an LOD is done in this fashion, it can make the process more painful and could take years to complete. LODs completed "after the fact" risk being closed due to insufficient documentation, documentation which does not match the time frame of the orders, or lack of follow-up from the Soldier.

You will benefit greatly from addressing medical issues and completing an LOD. If you submit the documentation for a LOD due to injuries which incurred while on a military status you will have your records up-to-date when discharged from the military. This will ensure a smooth transition in getting your records in order for veteran's benefits and disability ratings from the military. Bottom-line, by addressing all medical issues which are incurred in the Line of Duty will assist in getting the needed medical care and the medical bills paid.



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